(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) the quantity of wheat, rice, kerosene and sugar allotted to Himachal Pradesh during 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and for ten months from April 2002 to January 2003 for distribution through Public Distribution System is given in the statement enclosed (*see* below). District-wise allocation and distribution is made by the State Goverment of Himachal Pradesh and this information is not maintained by the Central Government.

(b) and (c) There has been no policy change with regard to distribution of wheat, rice and kerosene through PDS specific only to H.P.

Statement

Quantity of wheat, rice, kerosene and sugar allotted to Himachal Pradesh for distribution through PDS

(Fig. in Tonnes)

Sl. No.	Name of the commodity	Allocation during		
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03 (upto Jan, 03)
1.	wheat	1,06,753	1,22,124	1,74,594
2.	Rice	98,690	2,50,887	2,75,691
3.	Kerosene	61,434	59,690	47,090
4.	Sugar	54,060	57,592	48,196

Pesticides in bottled water

968. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item titled 'Pesticides in bottled water' appearing in the 'Times of India', dated the 5th February, 2003;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard togetherwith the number of the licensees and quantity of bottles produced and consumed in India;

(c) whether it is a fact that the testing norms prescribed by BIS are not of international standards;

(d) whether Government propose to suspend the bottling activity until suitable testing norms is adopted by BIS considering the adverse impact on health of the consumers; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Two Indian Standards, one for Natural Mineral Water and another for Packaged Drinking Water, were formulated in 1998. These standards cover microbiological, physical and chemical safety of water. These standards were based on international standards prevailing at that time. In March 2001, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare enforced a gazetted notification under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules 1955 as per which Packaged Drinking Water and Mineral Water cannot be manufactured, sold or exhibited for sale without BIS Standards Mark thereby making BIS Certification Mark Mandatory. Ministry of Health is the enforcement authority and BIS is the certifying agency. BIS has so far granted more than 700 licences for packaged drinking water (Including 1 in Nepal) and 6 licences for packaged natural mineral water (including one in France) to different manufacturers. The water manufactured in adherence to these standards is entirely fit for human consumption. According to the existing BIS Standard pesticide residues should be below detectable limits when tested by the relevant method specified in the Indian Standards. This is in accordance with the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955. A seminar was covened by BIS on 13th February, 2003 to determine whether the existing product was fit for human consumption, The seminar was attended by eminent Scientists representing Government bodies, representative of World Health Organisation, Consumers, representatives of Industry and other stakeholders. The seminar affirmed that the Packaged Drinking Water now being produced according to the BIS Standards is fit for human consumption. In view of these facts, the question of suspending bottling activity does not arise.